

From: Jim Hoops

Date: December 20, 2018 at 1:13:48 PM EST

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Subject: Convening a Republican Caucus for the purpose of a Leadership Election

Colleagues –

I hope this letter finds you well as you prepare to celebrate the Christmas and holiday season with friends and loved ones.

I am writing you today for two important reasons: to express my sincere concern over the delay in holding a House Republican caucus leadership election, and to definitively set a path forward to settle this matter for the sake of this institution.

As most of you know, it is a long-held tradition for our caucus to hold its leadership vote within 3 weeks of the November General Election. As of today, it has been 6 weeks since the 2018 General Election and no leadership vote has been scheduled by the traditionally-designated Caucus Dean. We are now the only legislative caucus in both the House and Senate that has yet to hold its leadership election for the next General Assembly – the House Democrats and Senate Republicans elected their leadership teams several weeks ago.

Many of you were in attendance when – on two separate occasions this month – I asked the traditionally-designated Caucus Dean when a leadership vote would be scheduled. On both occasions I was rebuffed and told that “this is not the forum for such a question because not all members of the incoming House Republican Caucus are present to take part in the conversation.”

Well, ladies and gentlemen, I believe such a forum is long overdue.

Moreover, I believe it is incumbent upon us as a collective body to move forward with setting a time and location to meet for the purpose of a caucus leadership election.

This is not a conclusion I have come to lightly, nor alone. I know many of you are greatly frustrated with this delay and have expressed a desire to conduct a vote at the soonest possible occasion.

We as members and members-elect are not alone in this desire for a resolution.

On Monday, the editorial board at The Columbus Dispatch rightly concluded that the traditionally-designated Caucus Dean “*has abused his position as dean of the caucus by failing to call for the leadership vote in a timely manner.*” The editorial board went on to say that by

delaying the vote, the traditionally-designated Caucus Dean *“has dishonored tradition and prevented House members and staff from being able to orderly plan for the new session.”*

Additionally, our offices each received a letter from “The Big 6,” the leaders of Ohio’s largest statewide business organizations, imploring us to hold this leadership vote.

For all the reasons outlined above, I now formally request that the House Republican Caucus of the 133rd General Assembly convene for the purpose of selecting a Caucus Dean and holding a leadership election around the time when the House meets for session next week. It is critical that we all come together to hold this important election and unanimously support the winner of this vote so that we can go to the House Floor on January 7th as a united caucus.

After speaking with many of you, I have found that an overwhelming majority of the incoming House Republican Caucus members of the 133rd General Assembly will be available to participate. I and a few of our colleagues will also be making personal calls to each of you to confirm your attendance.

It is time for us to restore order to what should be an honorable and dignified process. We must come together now to elect our next leader and move forward in the spirit of unity.

I look forward to seeing all of you next week.

Sincerely,

Jim Hoops
State Representative
Ohio House District 81